



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to the Associated Press, industry data released Monday shows that incidents of mortgage fraud jumped 42 percent nationwide. The report is based on data about loans that were originated in the first quarter of this year. (See item [16](#))
- The New York Times reports that eight states and Puerto Rico will no longer get money for an advanced HIV tracking system because funds are limited and those states did not meet competitive requirements. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 26, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. oil firms, traders eye potential threat from Gustav.** U.S. oil companies and energy traders on Tuesday watched Hurricane Gustav which threatened to enter the Gulf of Mexico as a powerful storm this weekend. The Gulf is home to a quarter of U.S. crude oil production and 15 percent of its natural gas output. As of Tuesday morning, Gustav was churning off the southern coast of Haiti. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said it could hit the Gulf as a powerful Category 3 storm by Sunday. Energy companies in the Gulf monitored the storm's progress, and had not yet taken steps to evacuate platforms.
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20080826-0613-storm-gustav->

[energy.html](#)

2. *August 26, Idaho Press-Tribune* – (Idaho) **High winds, fire lead to tragedy; Winds cut power to 9,500 customers.** More than 9,500 customers of Idaho Power lost electricity across the Treasure Valley during a severe dust storm Monday evening. Shortly after 6 p.m., Idaho Power reported 1,300 customers without power in Caldwell, and by 7 p.m. there were about 9,500 customers without power in several cities including Boise, Emmett, Kuna, and Meridian. The main cause of the power outage was trees and tree branches coming down on power lines, according to an Idaho Power spokesman. About 450 power customers were those in the area of a devastating fire at Columbia Village in Boise. By 9:15 p.m., most customers had their power restored, he said. Crews continue to work to restore power to customers. Source: <http://www.idahopress.com/news/?id=12826>
3. *August 25, Reuters* – (International) **Venezuela says advancing in talks with Conoco.** Venezuela is advancing in talks with U.S. oil giant ConocoPhillips and will meet with the company next week to discuss the 2007 nationalization of its assets, a Venezuelan official said on Monday. Conoco has filed arbitration proceedings against Venezuela for last year's nationalization of heavy oil projects in the Orinoco Belt, but has maintained simultaneous discussions to reach an out-of-court compensation settlement. "We are advancing... next week we have a meeting," said a director at Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA. Venezuela's president took over four multibillion-dollar heavy oil upgrading projects as part of a nationalization drive, edging Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips out of the OPEC nation in the process. PDVSA ruled out talks with Exxon after the company froze \$12 billion worth of Venezuelan assets in efforts to secure compensation for nationalized holdings. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2515089420080825>
4. *August 25, Reuters* – (International) **Nigerian gunmen hijack oil supply vessel in delta.** Gunmen hijacked an oil supply boat with eight Nigerian crew members, the latest attack in Nigeria's restive Niger Delta region, military and private security sources said on Monday. The "Benue," belonging to local oil services company West Africa Offshore, was returning from the Agbami offshore oil field operated by U.S. major Chevron to Onne in Rivers state when it was seized on Sunday, one private security source working in the oil industry told Reuters. No group has yet to claim responsibility for the attack. The latest hijacking came barely three months after gunmen in May seized another supply vessel, MV Lourdes Tide, working for Chevron, and demanded a \$254,539 ransom for the release of the boat and its 11-man crew. The Lourdes Tide, operated by oil services firm Tidewater Nigeria Ltd, was carrying supplies from Onne to Escravos in neighboring Delta state when it was attacked. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSLP69721020080825>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *August 26, Southtown Star* – (Illinois) **Alsip chemical plant remains closed after**

Sunday fire. An Alsip chemical plant in Illinois remained closed Monday, a day after a fire sent three firefighters and one employee to local hospitals. The Cook County sheriff's police and the Illinois state fire marshal's office are investigating the cause of the fire. Blue Island Phenol manufactures the chemicals phenol and acetone, which are used to make nail polish remover and sunscreen. The plant manager said that while the investigation continues, the plant will be shut down. Firefighters responded to the blaze about 4:30 a.m. Sunday. The fire started in an area near a 31-foot-tall tank that contained chemicals cumene and cumene hydroperoxide. Authorities believe a power failure that happened about 6 p.m. Saturday night have caused the fire, but they are not sure. Power was restored at 4:15 a.m. Sunday. After the power was restored, employees were in the process of restarting the plant when cumene hydroperoxide was released from the tank. The blaze then started adjacent to the tank. Firefighters remained at the plant for at least 12 hours to clean up the scene.

Source: <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1126405.082608firefolo.article>

6. *August 25, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Man found dead in car containing chemicals in Pasadena.** A man was found dead in a car containing household pesticides and chemicals Monday in the Hastings Ranch area of Pasadena, California, authorities said. Shops and restaurants in the area near North Halstead Street and Rosemead Boulevard were evacuated Monday afternoon after a passerby noticed the car in a parking lot behind a store with a warning sign on it. Firefighters arriving at the scene found a man slumped over the steering wheel and potentially deadly chemicals inside the vehicle, said a spokeswoman for the Pasadena Fire Department.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-chemcar26-2008aug26,0,2289102.story>

7. *August 25, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. Senate OKs bill regulating chemicals.** The California Senate has approved legislation giving the state broad powers to regulate hazardous chemicals in consumer products. The measure cleared the Senate Monday on a 21-15 vote and was sent to the state Assembly to consider Senate amendments. The bill would implement an agreement announced last week by the governor's administration officials and a group of lawmakers. It would give the Department of Toxic Substance Control until 2011 to set up a process to identify and regulate "chemicals of concern" in consumer products. The regulations could lead to labeling requirements, use restrictions or even an outright ban. Supporters want to give the department broader regulatory powers rather than let lawmakers decide which chemicals to ban.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/08/25/state/n173707D80.DTL&type=politics>

8. *August 25, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Refinery settlement reached.** Two Lyondell Chemical Company affiliates have agreed to pay \$6.5 million to resolve an investigation into their handling of smog-causing pollutants, the Texas attorney general announced Monday. The settlement involving seven chemical plants along the Gulf Coast comes nearly two years after an attorney general sued the operators for thousands of violations of state and federal laws meant to protect air quality. A state inquiry found that the

plants, which are owned by Houston-based Lyondell and operated under the names of Equistar and Millennium, had released large quantities of harmful chemicals for years without remedy. A Lyondell spokeswoman said the company is satisfied with the agreement and has spent millions of dollars to fix most of the problems mentioned in the lawsuit. The company, for example, has invested in infrared cameras to detect leaks, a procedure not yet required by federal or state regulators, she said. This is the second highest penalty under the Texas Clean Air Act. Huntsman Petrochemical Corp. agreed to pay \$9 million in 2003 for illegally releasing millions of tons of pollution at its Port Arthur plant.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/5965712.html>

9. *August 25, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Chemical leak closes Fairmont Parkway in La Porte.** A chemical leak kept traffic on Fairmont Parkway between Bay Area Boulevard and Texas 146 in La Porte shut down for more than six hours Monday morning, but officials have lifted a shelter-in-place advisory for businesses in the area. The leak of ethylchloroformate began before 4 a.m. in a railroad tank car at the PPG Industries chemical plant. Ethylchloroformate fumes can irritate the eyes and respiratory system, a PPG spokesman said. He said the shelter-in-place recommendation, which includes shutting doors and windows and turning off air conditioning, remains in effect for residences in the vicinity of the plant. Plant emergency response crews were working to reduce pressure in the tank car and seal the tank, the official said. No injuries or illnesses have been reported, he said. The volume of the leak was reduced gradually, but Meadows said plant officials were not sure when the leak would be completely shut off.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1844146/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

10. *August 26, Canwest News Service* – (International) **Canada ‘monitoring’ Dutch reactor shutdown.** Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. plans to increase production of medical isotopes should a shortage follow the recent shutdown of a Dutch nuclear reactor, the federal government said Tuesday. Canada’s natural resources minister and health minister issued a joint statement saying the government was “monitoring this developing situation” and had notified provincial and territorial health officials about the issue. The departments also initiated a new protocol created as a result of the shortage crisis triggered by the December 2007 shutdown of the isotope-producing reactor in Chalk River, Ontario, which is operated by AECL, a Crown corporation, the statement said. The federal government is in talks with other isotope suppliers in South Africa, France, and Belgium “to ensure that Canadians will have the isotopes they need,” the health minister said. The natural resources minister was informed by AECL Friday that the reactor in the Netherlands, which supplies Canada with isotopes, had been shut down as a result of “technical difficulties,” the statement said. About 15 to 20 per cent of the Canadian market is supplied by reactors outside of Canada, said the statement, which was posted on Health Canada’s website. The Chalk River reactor produces more than half of the world’s medical isotopes.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=3510d77d-3583->

11. *August 23, Valley News Dispatch* – (Pennsylvania) **Parks nuke dump site to be cleaned in one-foot layers.** Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is still working out the details for removal of 50,000 tons of radioactive debris from a dump along Route 66 in Pennsylvania, they will do so one foot at a time. The Shallow Land Disposal Area was established in the late 1950s as a dump for radioactive and toxic chemical waste from the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corp. Radioactive and chemical waste was buried in ten shallow trenches throughout the site. Dumping ceased in 1970, according to government agencies. Final plans to safely contain or dig up and remove the radioactive contaminants have been elusive for more than 15 years. And it is with much trepidation that the Corps will settle on a work plan to start excavating the nuclear materials safely starting in fall 2009. A special facility to process and handle material from the trenches will be built at the dump site. And the Corps is working on contingency plans to ensure the safety of site workers and the community, according to a project manager for the Corps in Pittsburgh. Only small amounts of nuclear materials will be taken out of the ground at one time as a safety precaution and to stay within regulatory guidelines, he said. So far, the agency has spent about \$9.5 million investigating and sampling the dump site and developing site studies, he said. Another \$56 million will be spent on the site cleanup, which is scheduled to finish in 2013. A final work plan is expected in November.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_584528.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *August 26, General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products* – (National) **General Dynamics to produce advanced chemical detection systems for U.S. Army ground vehicles.** The U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, has awarded General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products approximately \$15.7M for the first year's production on a six-year contract for Joint Service Lightweight Standoff Chemical Agent Detector (JSLSCAD) systems and spare parts. The first phase of this contract is expected to be completed in June 2010. The JSLSCAD is a detection system designed to provide ground vehicles with state-of-the-art remote chemical agent detection. General Dynamics' technology uses a passive infrared detection system that automatically searches for chemical agent vapor clouds. This is the first chemical detection system with 360-degree coverage for ground vehicles with a detection range of up to two kilometers. When a harmful chemical is detected the system signals a warning allowing personnel to either avoid contaminated areas or don protective gear.

Source: <http://www.chemicalonline.com/article.mvc/General-Dynamics-To-Produce-Advanced-Chemical-0001?VNETCOOKIE=NO>

13. *August 25, United Press International* – (Florida) **Navy, Coast Guard conducting port exercise.** The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard are conducting a security experiment in Florida aimed at testing mine countermeasures and other capabilities. The Navy and

Coast Guard, along with support from U.S. research institute SRI International, are testing a suite of port security technologies called the Adaptive Force Package during an eight-day experiment ending Thursday in the waters of Tampa Bay off the coast of Florida, the U.S. Defense Department reported. Officials are working to demonstrate the Navy's employment of "Mine Countermeasures Mission Modules developed for the Littoral Combat Ship and to address the U.S. Fleet Forces and Commander of the Navy's Third Fleet Sea Trials objective for this capability," the release said. Officials say the exercise is also aimed at improving emergency procedures and incident response collaboration between local and national authorities at U.S. ports and waterways.

Source:

http://www.metimes.com/Security/2008/08/25/navy_coast_guard_conducting_port_exercise/3342/

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *August 26, Bloomberg* – (National) **Merrill, Wachovia hit with record refinancing bill.** Banks, securities firms and lenders have a record \$871 billion of bonds maturing through 2009, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co., just as yields are at their most punitive compared with Treasuries. The increase in yields may cost them as much as \$23 billion more in annual interest versus a year ago based on Merrill Lynch index data. Higher refinancing expenses will restrict the ability of banks to borrow in the capital markets and lend, further cutting off credit to consumers and businesses and curbing what is already the slowest growing economy since 2001. Standard & Poor's said last week that it had a "negative" outlook on almost half of the 50 highest-rated financial institutions in the U.S. as of June 30, the highest proportion in 15 years. The Federal Reserve's quarterly lending survey released August 11 said that more banks tightened credit for consumers and business borrowers. Interest-rate derivatives imply that banks are even becoming hesitant to lend to each other amid the flood of maturing debt. They are charging each other a premium of 78 basis points over what traders predict the Fed's daily effective federal funds rate will average over the next three months. That is up from 24 basis points in January, and may widen to 85 basis points, or 0.85 percentage point, by mid-December, approaching the record levels set last year, prices in the forwards market show.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a7snTaUmiwnw&refer=home>

15. *August 25, Empire State News* – (New York) **Foreign currency broker sentenced in scheme to rig trades.** A foreign currency broker originally from Staten Island has been sentenced to four years supervised release before a Federal District Court in Manhattan Federal Court. The sentence follows his guilty plea to a conspiracy to commit wire fraud, bank fraud, money laundering and federal tax evasion. The suspect was arrested in November 2003 in connection with Operation Wooden Nickel, a large scale undercover investigation of criminal activity in the foreign currency or "forex" markets. As part of the sentence, he was ordered to pay \$400,001 in restitution to UBS and

\$24,000 to Societe Generale and to forfeit \$5.2 million dollars to the government. During the late 1990's, the culprit worked at Tullett and Tokyo Forex, Inc., a firm that offered brokerage services in the interbank spot foreign currency market. In his scheme, he used his contacts with bank traders in large institutions and provided rigged foreign currency trades to co-conspirators in return for cash kickbacks.

Source: <http://www.empirestatenews.net/News/20080826-6.html>

16. *August 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Florida tops 1Q mortgage fraud list.**

Reported incidents of mortgage fraud jumped 42 percent nationwide, with Florida reporting the highest number of cases, according to industry data released Monday. Properties in Florida accounted for nearly a quarter of all mortgage fraud incidents, the Mortgage Asset Research Institute (MARI) said. California ranked second, followed by a three-way tie for third among Illinois, Maryland and Michigan. The report is based on data submitted by MARI subscribers about loans that were originated in the first quarter of this year and have since been classified as fraudulent. The most common mortgage fraud cases included misrepresenting income, employment history, and debt and assets. Maryland, for example, had an unusually high percentage (69 percent) of its cases involved tax return and financial statement misrepresentation. Mortgage fraud has represented about \$1 billion in losses over the past decade, the Mortgage Bankers Association said.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j-14h6zFmTnryUbOyy9zHpSRzpUAD92PHRIO0>

17. *August 25, Reuters* – (International) **Abu Dhabi bank sues in U.S. over risky investments.**

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank of the United Arab Emirates bank sued Morgan Stanley, the Bank of New York Mellon Corp and ratings agencies Moody's and S&P on Monday, accusing them of fraud in operating a fund that collapsed in the U.S. credit crisis. The lawsuit filed in U.S. district court in Manhattan said a complex deal known as the Cheyne Structured Investment Vehicle (SIV) was marketed by the defendants as highly rated and reliable, but they had hidden the risks. "Defendants knew the assets purchased and held by the SIV were risky and of poor quality. They further knew the models used to generate the high rates were flawed," the lawsuit said. SIVs, which once held some \$350 billion in assets, have played a major role in the U.S. credit crisis, after proving unable to refinance their short-term debts. A series of SIVs are now selling off bank debt and assets such as asset-backed securities to try to pay back investors, a move that many see as further pressuring credit markets. A deal was announced last month to restructure Cheyne, which at receivership was a \$7 billion fund. Many investors who elected to stay in the restructured fund now have assets worth less than one-half of their former value, and the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank's investment is worth zero now, the complaint said. SIVs used short-term funding, such as asset-backed commercial paper, to buy longer-term assets such as bank debt and asset-backed securities. The bank brought the action on behalf of all investors who bought investment grade Mezzanine Capital Notes issued by Cheyne Finance PLC and its wholly owned subsidiary Cheyne Finance Capital Notes from October 2004 to October 2007.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2544108520080825>

Transportation Sector

18. *August 25, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Freight train derails between Metrolink’s Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana stations.** Commuters on Metrolink’s San Bernardino, California, line were delayed after a freight train derailed Monday morning between Los Angeles and San Bernardino, a Merolink spokeswoman said. Commuter trains were not cleared to operate at full speed until about 2:30 p.m., after the completion of a signal system inspection. The derailment did not cause any injuries. No hazardous materials were released, but the derailed cars blocked Metrolink commuter trains, affecting passengers traveling to or from Fontana, Rialto and San Bernardino. The San Bernardino line carries an average of 13,711 passengers each day.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-derail26-2008aug26,0,3297406.story>
19. *August 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Traffic fatalities driven down by high gas prices.** This year, gasoline climbed over \$4 a gallon, and the traffic death toll, according to one study, appears headed to the lowest levels since 1961. The number is being pulled down by a change in Americans’ driving habits, which is fueled largely by record high gasoline prices, according to the Transportation Research Institute at the University of Michigan. The institute’s study, which covers 12 months ending in April, found that as gas prices rose, driving and fatalities declined. The surprise, said author of the study, was the huge decline in fatalities in March and April as gasoline prices surged above \$3.20 a gallon. Over the previous 10 months, monthly fatalities declined an average of 4.2 percent compared to the previous year. The declines found by the researcher suggest that motorists reached what he calls a “tipping point” and have begun significantly changing their driving behavior. If the pattern continues for the rest of this year, it would lead to “an unheard of improvement” in motor vehicle fatalities, said the researcher, who used data from the National Safety Council, National Center for Health Statistics and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). NHTSA reported last week that motor vehicle deaths in the United States totaled 41,059 last year, the lowest level in more than a decade. And the Federal Highway Administration said Americans drove 12.2 billion fewer miles in June than a year earlier, the biggest monthly decrease in a downward trend that began in November.
Source:
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j_INIiz1kcLpWqGsaqZ_BFXERVeQD92PGCTG0

Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *August 26, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **White powder found inside envelope at courthouse was likely coffee creamer.** Authorities have determined that a powdery substance found in the mailroom at the South County Courthouse in Delray Beach, Florida, was a “dairy mix” – most likely a coffee creamer. The mailroom was sealed off shortly after 10 a.m. Monday. All other court services in the building were

operating normally. Five employees were in the mailroom, and two of them came into contact with what they said was a suspicious envelope. The writing was described as “unusual,” and the envelope contained a powdery substance. The two employees also said they had a burning sensation in their throats from coming in contact with the item. A Palm Beach County sheriff’s employee also reported feeling dizzy on the scene. Sheriff’s detectives will investigate the source of the envelope.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-flppowder0826pnaug26,0,5977900.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *August 26, Inthenews.co.uk* – (International) **Bluetongue surviving winter by infecting livestock fetuses.** Scientists have come up with a number of hypotheses for explaining how the Bluetongue virus survives winter. When it first reached livestock in northern Europe in 2006 it was thought that the virus would be killed off during the winter, thereby preventing it from spreading. However, the virus did survive the winter and escalated the following year. Scientists claim that the survival may be due to a number of different reasons. In mild winters, the infected midges may have survived in livestock barns before becoming active again in spring. Another possibility is that Bluetongue is in fact spread by some susceptible species of long-lived ticks and by the simple mechanical transmission by *Melopagus ovinus*, a wingless parasite that lives in sheep. Evidence from Australia also points to the fact that the Bluetongue virus can survive inside midges and cattle for three to four months, enough time to survive the majority of winter. In northern Europe, it seems that the virus can survive by transplacental infections – spreading from an infected pregnant animal to its fetus. This is a significant phenomenon in cattle, due to its nine month gestation period.

Source: [http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/science/bluetongue-surviving-winter-by-infecting-livestock-foetuses-\\$1237938.htm](http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/science/bluetongue-surviving-winter-by-infecting-livestock-foetuses-$1237938.htm)

22. *August 25, Yomiuri Shimibun* – (International) **New detection method for food toxins found.** A research group led by the Kobe University Research Center for Environmental Genomics has developed a technique that may enable faster and more accurate detection of toxic substances in food. The technique, which is not yet ready for widespread practical use, involves artificially produced human enzymes that act as sensors for toxins in food samples. The enzyme used is cytochrome P450, which alters its chemical structure when it comes into contact with certain toxic substances. The enzyme, which has 57 variant forms, is present in the human body and functions to detoxify it of harmful substances, according to the head of the team at Kobe University. The head of the team said the technique could be used to detect such harmful substances as methamidophos, an organic phosphate that has been found in frozen gyoza dumplings made in China, and malachite green, a synthetic antibacterial drug that has been found in grilled eel.

Source: <http://www.theolympian.com/nationworld/story/559373.html>

23. *August 25, Canwest News Service* – (International) **Listeria may have developed**

tolerance to cleaning products: Expert. A deadly bacterium at the centre of a growing food-borne outbreak may have figured out how to get around the best sanitation practices at Canada's meat-processing plants, one of the country's top food microbiologist says. He said Maple Leaf Foods Inc. likely uses the best practices to make sure its meat products are safe, and the company did not catch the listeria contamination that has led to one of the country's largest ever food recalls. "Maybe the organism that we're looking at right now in this outbreak might be adapted to some peculiar way to have a higher tolerance to the sanitation activities, to the sanitation agents that are being used. That would be unusual, but it's possible," he said. The team of 10 charged with food safety at the Toronto plant takes 3,000 swabs annually and analyzes them at the plant's in-house microbiology laboratory, looking for bacteria like *Listeria monocytogenes*. But the current outbreak is a signal that listeria, a type of bacterium often found in food and elsewhere in the natural environment, is currently able to crack through the best food-safety protocols in meat and cheese plants, he said. The person who oversees meat inspection for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said he is not aware of red flags raised by any government inspector about the Maple Leaf plant. In this case, public-health officials first picked up there was a possible problem with food contamination last month when listeriosis cases started popping up in unusually high numbers of patients.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=e1db230e-bc35-4894-a22d-bbc1b4f51eb4>

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Water Sector

24. *August 26, New York Times* – (New York) **U.S. officials will review pollution in waterway.** The federal Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to "develop a sampling plan" that could lead to Newtown Creek's being named a federal Superfund site, a designation that could accelerate long-stalled cleanup efforts in the polluted, oil-slicked estuary between Queens and Brooklyn. Last month, two lawmakers urged the agency to test the area for inclusion in the Superfund program. If the tests turn up a significant level of chemicals and other hazardous waste, the site could be eligible for millions of dollars in federal assistance. A Superfund designation would also allow the agency to go after the companies responsible for the contamination. In 1990, ExxonMobil entered into two consent decrees to clean up the spill, roughly 17 million gallons of oil and other chemicals that leaked into the ground after a tank explosion in 1950. The company says roughly half the spill – discovered in 1978 – has been cleaned up, but the pace of the work has been criticized.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/26/nyregion/26creek.html?ref=environment>

25. *August 26, Press-Register* – (Alabama) **Fay rains overflow sewers.** Sewage spills blamed on rains in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Fay were reported Monday in both Baldwin and Mobile counties, Alabama. Heavy rainfall caused sanitary sewage overflows of more than 8,500 gallons Monday from manholes in four separate spots in Bayou La Batre, according to that city's utility board.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/1219742178217850.xml&coll=3>

26. *August 26, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Researchers begin hunt for polluted sediment.** University of Iowa researchers armed with shovels, sampling jars, GPS units, and clipboards will check for pollutants in the soil and water left after the 2008 floods. The researchers will be part of a \$100,000 National Science Foundation study that examines pollutants left in Cedar Rapids. Beginning Tuesday, they hope to collect about 400 soil samples, along with water samples from the Cedar River and Cedar Lake. Cedar Lake will prove an especially important site because it is contaminated with toxic industrial chemicals and insecticides, according to a University of Iowa statement. The researchers are scheduled to report their findings to the National Science Foundation by July 2009.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-scumhunt,0,6825934.story>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *August 26, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Indiana hospitals, surgery centers see 24% jump in medical error reports.** Indiana hospitals and surgery centers committed 105 serious and preventable errors in 2007 – a nearly 24 percent increase from last year, according to a state report released Monday. Cases involving surgery on the wrong body part jumped from 11 reported errors for 2006 to 23 in 2007. The Indiana State Department of Health said one reason for the hike in error reports was the increased awareness among health providers to track and report their mistakes. The state's hospitals and surgery centers disclosed 85 errors for 2006 in last year's inaugural report. Indiana is not alone in seeing an increase. Minnesota's reported errors jumped from 99 in the first year to 106 reports in the second year. Indiana officials say the error reports will help improve the quality of care by making patients and health-care professionals aware of the types of errors and their causes.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080826/BUSINESS03/808260363/1278/BUSINESS03>

28. *August 26, Science Daily* – (National) **Protein structure discovery opens door for drugs to fight bird flu.** Researchers at Rutgers University and the University of Texas at Austin have reported a discovery that could help scientists develop drugs to fight the much-feared bird flu and other virulent strains of influenza. The researchers have determined the three-dimensional structure of a site on an influenza A virus protein that binds to one of its human protein targets, thereby suppressing a person's natural defenses to the infection and paving the way for the virus to replicate efficiently. This so-called NS1 virus protein is shared by all influenza A viruses isolated from humans – including avian influenza, or bird flu, and the 1918 pandemic influenza virus. A paper detailing this breakthrough discovery appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Early Edition and will be published in an upcoming issue

of the PNAS print edition.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080825132113.htm>

29. *August 24, New York Times* – (National) **HIV/AIDS testing jurisdictions reduced; 8 states lose funding.** It was only two weeks ago that a revised HIV/AIDS tracking system indicated the annual HIV rate in the United States was about 40 percent higher than annual estimates had been giving for years. Now, the New York Times has reported that eight states and Puerto Rico will no longer get money for an advanced HIV tracking system because funds are limited and those states did not meet competitive requirements. The country had been divided into 34 HIV tracking jurisdictions, the Times reported, but now there will be 25. Those jurisdictions no longer getting financing are Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico, the newspaper said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/24/AR2008082400535.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *August 26, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **4 arrested after alleged threats to kill Obama.** Police have arrested four people in connection with a threat to possibly assassinate the Democratic presidential candidate during the Democratic National Convention. Police say it is possible there could be more arrests. They also say some of the people arrested could have ties to a white supremacy group. NBC News has learned that federal officials are downplaying the arrests, saying when one of the men was arrested, he made a threat against the candidate, but they do not believe it was based on any kind of plan or actual intent. Aurora Police arrested the first man early Sunday morning after a routine traffic stop. During the traffic stop, officers found two rifles, boxes of ammunition, one rifle scope, a bullet proof vest, walkie-talkies, and methamphetamines. Aurora Police says a second man was arrested at 4:30 a.m. on Sunday at a hotel. A third man was arrested at Cherry Creek Hotel in Glendale on Monday. Authorities say he had weapons and was wanted on seven outstanding warrants totaling more than \$1 million. A fourth suspect was also arrested, according to the Denver Post.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=98343&catid=188>

31. *August 26, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **U.S. diplomat escapes attack in new Pakistan violence.** Gunmen opened fire on the car of a senior U.S. diplomat in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday, but she escaped unhurt, police and U.S. officials said. The diplomat was on her way to the U.S. consulate in the city when a vehicle suddenly appeared and blocked the road, a local police officer said. Later, the U.S. consulate issued a brief statement saying: "There was a security incident in Peshawar this morning involving a U.S. consulate vehicle and three employees." "There were no injuries and minimal damage to the vehicle. We are coordinating with Pakistani authorities investigating the incident," it said.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5igZwFqy4CbQoJEdmFP8LsZCGEzgg>

Emergency Services Sector

32. *August 25, Media-NewsWire.com* – (Florida) **FEMA teams on the ground in Brevard County.** The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent even more staff to Brevard County Thursday to assist with the county and state response to Tropical Storm Fay. Since Fay made landfall, FEMA has been conducting preliminary damage assessments and has fielded an operations liaison in the Brevard County Emergency Operations Center. The liaison relays information about the situation in Brevard County to FEMA's regional office in Atlanta.
Source: http://media-newsWire.com/release_1071658.html
33. *August 25, Kingsport Times News* – (Tennessee) **Hawkins County cuts emergency services funds to balance budget.** The Hawkins County Commission approved its 2008-09 fiscal year budget Monday night, cutting funds to fire and rescue workers in favor of keeping taxes at last year's level. A motion to amend the budget by restoring all fire and rescue contributions to last year's level received a 10-9 vote with one abstention. But that motion failed because a majority of the entire 21-member body, or 11 votes, is required to approve budget items. The Commission cut emergency services spending \$51,500 overall.
Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9007867>
34. *August 25, KXLF 4 Butte* – (Montana) **Disaster drill to be held in Butte.** Silver Bow County emergency teams participated in a simulated disaster at Bert Mooney Airport Tuesday. In preparation for Tuesday morning's four-hour training exercise, around 12 coordinators from various parts of the country met to review plans for the drill that will bring together various groups, including firefighters, police officers and medical personnel. State and local evaluators said their role is to gauge the county's readiness to a disaster.
Source:
http://www.montanastation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8898211&nav=menu227_4

Information Technology

35. *August 26, ComputerWeekly* – (International) **Brazilian charged for leasing out PC botnet to attackers.** Brazilian authorities have charged a man for allegedly selling access to a 100,000-PC botnet of zombie computers. These zombie PCs were used to send spam, launch distributed denial-of-service attacks, or commit identity theft. The man now faces up to five years in prison and a fine of more than \$250,000.
Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2008/08/26/231977/brazilian-charged-for-leasing-out-pc-botnet-to-attackers.htm>
36. *August 26, Philippines Inquirer* – (International) **IBM warns 'zero-day' hacker**

exploits growing. Hackers are exploiting users' inability to comply promptly against announced vulnerabilities, according to an IBM security report. Ironically, IBM said security advisories seem to worsen the problem. According to IBM's X-Force midyear report, more than 90 percent of browser-related exploits detected during the first six months of this year have occurred within 24 hours after these vulnerabilities were disclosed. More significantly, IBM noted hackers are adopting new techniques and strategies in order to better exploit "zero-day" vulnerabilities, or simply before users are even aware they need to install patches or updates. Also, "exploit codes" being made public further compromise IT systems. The practice of disclosing exploit code along with a security advisory has been the accepted practice for many security researchers, the report said. In the first six months of 2008, nearly 80 percent of Web browser exploits are targeted browser plug-ins, the report also said

Source: <http://technology.inquirer.net/infotech/infotech/view/20080826-156948/IBM-warns-zero-day-hacker-exploits-growing>

37. *August 25, Computerworld* – (National) **Novell's iPrint open to attack, say researchers.** Attackers can exploit bugs in Novell Inc.'s iPrint application to obtain corporate information or hijack computers, security experts said. Novell has issued a patch that plugs multiple holes in the ActiveX control that Novell ships as part of its iPrint product, but according to Copenhagen-based bug tracker Secunia APS, one of the flaws remains unfixed. Secunia, which reported the bugs to Novell, counted at least eight vulnerabilities in the ActiveX control included with the Windows Vista version of the iPrint client, as well as several other flaws in another Windows Vista iPrint component.

Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113385&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

38. *August 25, Computerworld* – (National) **Microsoft adds privacy tools to IE8.** On Monday, Microsoft Corp. spelled out new privacy tools in Internet Explorer 8 (IE8). The most intriguing tool was dubbed "InPrivate Browsing" by Microsoft. When enabled, IE8 will not save browsing and searching history, cookies, form data, and passwords; it also will automatically clear the browser cache at the end of the session. Other new tools will include "InPrivate Blocking" and "InPrivate Subscription," which notifies users of third-party content that can track browsing history and subscribe to lists of sites to block, respectively. Microsoft will also tweak its existing "Delete Browsing History" by adding an option to preserve bookmarked sites' cookies even when all others are erased.

Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113419&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

39. *August 26, VNUNet* – (Michigan) **Phone companies latest iPhone slowdown culprit.** A recent survey by Wired magazine has pointed to mobile carriers as the reason for the iPhone 3G slowdown. The magazine asked some 2,600 iPhone 3G users around the world to contribute 3G performance numbers from their localities. The results, claims Wired, suggest that the sluggish 3G speeds have more to do with the local 3G networks than any shortcomings in the hardware. 3G performance has by far been the biggest complaint from users ever since the iPhone 3G was launched in early July. The model was the first to run with a 3G connection, eschewing the EDGE network hardware employed by the previous model. So far, nobody has been able to pinpoint the exact reason for the slowdown. One analyst firm has suggested that the problems were due to bad hardware from Infineon. Other pundits suggested a firmware issue which they say Apple attempted to fix with the last update.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2224626/phone-companies-latest-iphone>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *August 26, Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **Bomb hoax leads to office evacuation.** The Marion County parole and probation office was evacuated Monday after workers found a suspicious package on the doorstep of the main entrance. Employees found a brown paper bag with wires sticking out of the top as they opened the office, the undersheriff said. The office workers evacuated the building and called for help. Salem police bomb technicians used a water cannon disruptor on the package, destroying it. The package did not contain explosives. Instead, the paper bag contained letters wrapped in black plastic garbage bags, bound with black electrical tape with wires attached. The substation reopened after technicians ruled the bomb a hoax.
Source:
<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080826/NEWS/808260355/1001/NEWS>
41. *August 26, Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Second bomb threat at mall.** Officials at the Mall at Rockingham Park discovered a second note with a bomb threat on Friday, prompting authorities to increase the security presence at the mall again over the weekend. Police say the second note was found in the same area as a note discovered in a public changing facility on Friday, August 15. Unlike the first bomb threat, the second note does not mention a specific date or time. The investigation into both of the threats is ongoing, and police believe the two notes are linked and are pursuing several leads provided by mall officials.

Source:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Second%20bomb%20threat%20at%20mall&articleId=98514a33-691b-40fd-ac85-1ef1ac9219ff>

42. *August 25, CBS* – (Colorado; National) **Detecting nuclear terrorism.** Undercover agents at the Democratic Convention are working to contain nuclear terrorism. The nuke SWAT teams are only part of the defense against improvised nuclear weapons and dirty bombs. Nuclear scientists say the closer we are to the ground, the closer we are to the radiation, and the better we can see it. From the air, Department of Energy scientists can also zero in on nuclear threats. “What that says to me is that I have a radioactive isotope emitting energy, this is more than likely where the source is,” a technician said. In big cities, like Washington, nukes and dirty bombs could be difficult to detect. “Naturally-occurring” radiation is everywhere given off by the granite from office buildings and the tombstones at Arlington National Cemetery. So, scientists are also working to chart existing radiation sources. The nation’s top two terror targets, Washington and New York, are already “mapped,” and Chicago is next.

Source:

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/08/25/cbsnews_investigates/main4382338.shtml

43. *August 26, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **Riot police mace crowd in front of civic center.** Riot police maced unruly crowds gathering in front of the Denver City and County Building Monday evening on the first night of the Democratic National Convention. It is believed to be the first time police used any force against protesters. Authorities said police were trying to disperse a crowd of about 300 that had disrupted traffic near Civic Center Park, which is about a mile away from the Pepsi Center. As police with shields and clubs moved the crowd back to the sidewalk, the group of protesters began to run north toward the Wellington Webb building.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/politics/17294342/detail.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

44. *August 26, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Critics of fence point to flood at border sites.** Flooding caused by a border security fence in southwestern Arizona shows that the structure is being built too quickly and without regard for the environment, critics say. Debris and water backed up at the fence during a storm on July 12, leading to flooding at the port of entry at Lukeville and Sonoyta, Mexico, and at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. “One of the reasons for it was the debris that accumulated on the fence itself,” said the superintendent of the monument, a desert tract overseen by the National Park Service. Environmental groups have denounced a waiver of environmental laws granted by the homeland security secretary to hasten the construction of the 670 miles of barriers planned by year’s end along the nation’s nearly 2,000-mile-long border with Mexico. Much of the fencing, intended to prevent pedestrians from crossing the border, consists of 15-foot-tall steel-mesh panels, some with wide horizontal grates to let water and sediment flow through. A recent report by the Organ Pipe monument’s staff concluded that the fencing failed to meet water-runoff

standards set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and failed to comply with a final environmental assessment by the Border Patrol. A Customs and Border Protection spokesman in Washington, said engineers would talk with Park Service officials to discuss the findings and recommendations.

Source: www.nytimes.com/2008/08/26/us/26fence.html

45. *August 26, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Bush proposes protections for Pacific islands, atolls and reefs.** The President on Monday signaled his intention to protect some of the Pacific Ocean's most remote and unspoiled islands, atolls, and coral reefs from fishing and deep-sea mining. The proposal, expected to be finalized before the president leaves office, could establish marine sanctuaries or national monuments extending as far as 200 miles from each island or emergent reef that breaks the surface of the water. The Mariana Trench, Palmyra Atoll, Kingman Reef, Johnston Atoll, Jarvis Island, Howland Island, Baker Island, and Wake Island are all slated for protection. The proposed monuments in the Pacific are expected to face resistance from commercial and recreational fishing interests. Two other candidates for increased protection -- a stretch of deep-water corals off the coast of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida and areas especially rich in marine life in the Gulf of Mexico -- were removed from consideration because of opposition from the fishing and oil and gas industries.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-islands26-2008aug26,0,1812192.story>

46. *August 26, Pacer* – (Tennessee) **Statue vandalism suspects turn themselves in.** Two Martin residents have turned themselves in for the August 9 vandalism of a memorial statue of a Martin National Guardsman killed in action in Iraq by an improvised explosive device. They were charged with vandalism on August 18 following their confession. The Martin Police chief said in a statement to the Union City Daily Messenger the two people told police their actions were intended as "a political statement" and not directed at any individual.

Source:

<http://media.www.utmpacer.com/media/storage/paper1175/news/2008/08/26/CampusNews/Statue.Vandalism.Suspects.Turn.Themselves.In-3403688.shtml>

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Dams Sector

47. *August 26, Wausau Daily Herald* – (Wisconsin) **Utility works to repair dam.** Wisconsin Public Service Corp. (WPSC) hopes to restore the water level of the Wisconsin River near its hydroelectric dam to normal by the end of this year. The river has been lowered around the hydroplant since April when WPSC officials noticed something was amiss. "They noticed water flowing where it shouldn't be flowing," said a WPSC regional generations supervisor for western Wisconsin. "That put up a red flag." WPSC found that a concrete slab projecting from the dam roughly 30 feet upstream had been uprooted, with water pressure building beneath it, he said. WPSC first lowered the river by a foot several feet around the hydroplant to install weights on the concrete to prevent it from buckling, he said. By June, they lowered the river an

additional three feet to take concrete samples from the slab. No other water bodies were affected during this process. Now, WPSC is looking to select a contractor to remove and replace a 60-foot segment of the damaged, cracked slab. The utility expects to hire a contractor in early September.

Source:

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080826/WDH0101/808260534/1981/WDHsports>

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